

Catalogue of American Amphibians and Reptiles.

McCRANIE, JAMES R. 1984. *Crotalus vegrans*.

***Crotalus vegrans* Klauber**
Uracoan rattlesnake

Crotalus vegrans Klauber, 1941:334. Type-locality, "Maturin Savannah, near Uracoa, Sotillo District, State of Monagas, Venezuela." Holotype, Carnegie Mus. 17384, an adult male, collected by Harry A. Beatty, in 1939 (not examined by author).

Crotalus durissus vegrans: Klauber, 1956:34.

- CONTENT. The species is monotypic.

• DEFINITION AND DIAGNOSIS. *Crotalus vegrans* is a stunted species closely related to *C. durissus*. Adults reach about 1100 mm in total length but most are less than 800 mm. The dorsal ground color is some shade of pale olive green, rust brown, or gray with numerous scattered white-tipped scales on the head and body. The longitudinal stripes on the rear part of the head and on the neck which are characteristic of *Crotalus durissus* are largely absent because of the irregularity of the white-tipped scales. White-tipped scales form outlines of the characteristic dorsal rhombs of *C. durissus*, with the more or less visible rhombs numbering about 27 to 33. The white tipping increases on the first and second scale rows so that the majority of each "white-tipped" scale is white. The tail is solid gray or black. Scutellation is as follows: 25-29 (usually 27) scale rows at midbody, all keeled except for the lowest two; 162-172 ventrals in males, 163-178 in females; 25-31 subcaudals in males, 18-25 in females; 12-15 supralabials; 13-16 infralabials; 2 preoculars; 2 suboculars; 3 postoculars. The rostral is triangular and is as wide as high. The internasals are triangular and paired. The prefrontals are paired, in contact, and are larger than the internasals. Posterior to the prefrontals (frontal area) there are one or two large scales followed by smaller irregular scales. Posterior to these irregular scales there is a pair of larger scales (vestiges of parietals) bordering the posteromedial edge of the supraoculars. The remainder of the head is covered by small and fairly regular scales. The prenasal is larger than the postnasal. There are usually two loreals on each side of the head. The first supralabial contacts the prenasal. Two rows of scales are present between the supralabials and the suboculars. A sharp vertebral ridge is present.

Crotalus vegrans differs from *C. durissus* in that the dorsal rhombs and the pair of longitudinal stripes present on the head and neck of *durissus* are largely absent in *vegrans*, being obscured by numerous scattered white-tipped scales. *Crotalus vegrans* is also a smaller species than *durissus*, most adults being less than 800 mm in total length. *Crotalus vegrans* differs from *C. unicolor*, another stunted species closely related to *durissus*, in that *unicolor* lacks the scattered white-tipped scales present in *vegrans*.

• DESCRIPTIONS. Lancini (1967) described the scutellation, color pattern, and the hemipenes. Later, Lancini (1979) gave a general description of the scutellation and color pattern.

• ILLUSTRATIONS. Color illustrations are provided by Hoge (1966), Hoge and Romano-Hoge (1981), Lancini (1979), Roze (1970), and Sandner (1975). Black and white photographs are found in Glenn and Straight (1982), Harris and Simmons (1978), Hoge and Lancini (1962), Klauber (1972, 1982), Lancini (1967), Murphy et al. (1979), and Roze (1966).

• DISTRIBUTION. *Crotalus vegrans* is endemic to the savannas and alluvial plains of the southern portions of the Venezuelan states of Anzoátegui and Monagas.

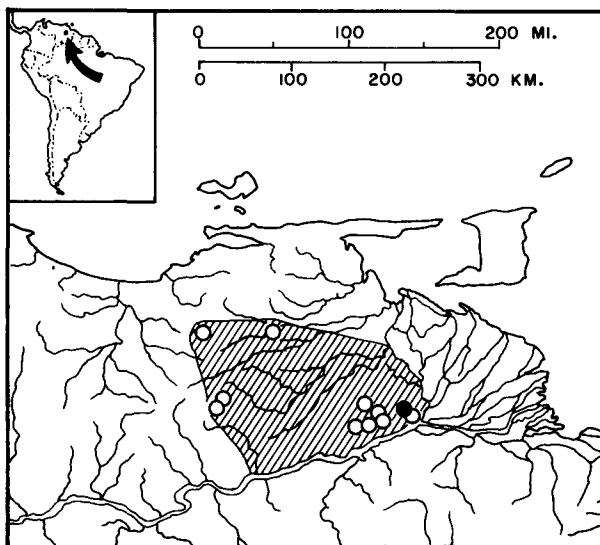
• FOSSIL RECORD. None.

• PERTINENT LITERATURE. Lancini (1967) provided information on habitat, food, reproduction, and venom, and included a map of the collecting localities of the specimens he examined. Other works and their topics are: Carl et al. (1982), reproduction in captive-bred females; Chiszar and Radcliffe (1976) and Chiszar et al. (1978), feeding stimuli; Gubenšek et al. (1978) and Scannone et al. (1978), venom; Murphy et al. (1979), reproduction of wild-bred females; Rivero-Blanco and Dixon (1979), vegetational association. In addition, Lillywhite and Maderson (1982) provided information on epidermal lipids which was taken from an unpublished doctoral thesis.

• ETYMOLOGY. The name *vegrans* is Latin, meaning diminutive, and refers to the stunted size of the species.

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MAP. Solid circle marks type-locality, hollow circles other localities. Shading indicates estimated range.

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